

# Sheep and Lamb Losses by Cause

Utah farmers and ranchers lost 73,400 sheep and lambs to all causes in 1998.

**Lambs lost before docking** totaled 22,400, **lambs lost after docking** totaled 29,000, and sheep one year old and older lost totaled 22,000. The largest single cause of death in lambs from predators before docking was from coyotes taking 4,000. This accounted for 17.9 percent of all lambs lost before docking. Coyotes also accounted for the largest number of lambs lost after docking at 13,200, a 45.5 percent loss.

Sheep one year old and older losses to coyotes, at

4,500, was the single largest cause, accounting for 20.5 percent. Total losses to coyotes equaled 21,700 which was 30.0 percent of all losses to sheep and lambs in the state. Other loss totals are shown.

*Cooperation: Data were collected in conjunction with the National Agricultural Statistics Service January 1 Sheep Report. Utah Department of Agriculture and Food provided funding for the "Loss by Cause" portion of the survey. Much appreciation goes out to all the sheep producers who cooperated in the effort to compile these statistics.*

**Sheep & Lamb: Loss by Cause, 1997-98**

Cause of Loss	Lambs				Sheep				Total			
	Number of head		Value in Dollars <sup>1/</sup>		Number of head		Value in Dollars <sup>2/</sup>		Number of head		Value in Dollars	
	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998	1997 <sup>3/</sup>	1998
	.. Number ..		.. Thousand ..		.. Number ..		.. Thousand ..		.. Number ..		.. Thousand ..	
<b>Predator</b>												
Dog	1,200	900	62	42	1,100	1,200	127	132	2,300	2,100	189	174
Coyote	18,600	17,200	966	800	6,000	4,500	690	495	24,600	21,700	1,656	1,295
Eagle	400	1,100	21	51	0	0	0	0	400	1,100	21	51
Bear	1,400	1,700	73	79	1,200	1,000	138	110	2,600	2,700	211	189
Mtn. Lion	5,000	4,400	260	205	2,000	1,800	230	198	7,000	6,200	490	403
Fox	1,000	900	52	42	0	0	0	0	1,000	900	52	42
Bobcat	200	600	10	28	100	100	12	11	300	700	22	39
Other animals	400	300	21	14	0	100	0	11	400	400	21	25
<b>Total Predator</b>	<b>28,200</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>38,600</b>	<b>35,800</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>2,217</b>
<b>Non-Predator</b>												
Weather conditions	5,200	5,900	270	274	600	1,000	69	110	5,800	6,900	339	384
Diseases	4,100	3,700	213	172	1,700	1,600	196	176	5,800	5,300	408	348
Poison	1,300	1,000	68	47	1,300	1,300	150	143	2,600	2,300	217	190
Lambing	3,200	3,100	166	144	2,000	2,000	230	220	5,200	5,100	396	364
Old age	0	0	0	0	2,400	2,700	276	297	2,400	2,700	276	297
Thefts	300	0	16	0	100	200	12	22	400	200	27	22
On back	100	100	5	5	800	600	92	66	900	700	97	71
Other causes	900	1,500	47	70	200	900	23	99	1,100	2,400	70	169
<b>Total Non-predator</b>	<b>15,100</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>25,600</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>1,844</b>
<b>Unknown Causes</b>												
<b>Total Unknown Causes</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>749</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>												
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>52,500</b>	<b>51,400</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>76,500</b>	<b>73,400</b>	<b>5,486</b>	<b>4,810</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Lamb value equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. <sup>2/</sup> Sheep value equal to average of 1998 and 1999 average value per head. <sup>3/</sup> Revised.